

4-17-97

# VALLEY STAR

LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

Volume 50, Issue 10

Thursday, April 17, 1997

**HIGHLIGHTS**

The Campus Concert Series will feature Jordan Charnofsky, classical guitarist/arranger, at the Music Recital Hall, room 106, today at 11 a.m. Admission is free.

The Academic Senate Committee will meet today at noon in the faculty lounge.

The Valley softball team will play Santa Barbara at Valley today at 3:30 p.m.

A Women's Day Celebration will be held Friday at various locations throughout the campus. Most events will occur in the Quad area from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., but events are planned at other times, including a fine arts performance in Monarch Hall starting at 6:30 p.m. For more information contact Melanie Klein through ASU at (818) 778-0361.

A Planetarium Show, Galileo at Jupiter, will be held at the Valley Planeterium Friday at 8 p.m. There will be an admission charge. Call (818) 778-0335 for more information.

The Valley baseball team will play Bakersfield Saturday, at 1 p.m. at Valley.

The Campus Concert Series will feature a Franz Schubert keyboard recital by Paul Da Silva and Frances Nobert Sunday at 3 p.m. in the Music Recital Hall.

An organizing meeting for the purpose of starting a Fire Technology Club will be held Tuesday at noon in the Behavioral Science Building, room 100. For more information call Karl Smith at (818) 778-0224.

The Spring 1997 Counseling Lunchtime Workshop Series will feature Dr. Bruce Thomas speaking on "Psychological Blocks to Career Decision Making," Tuesday from noon to 1 p.m. in the Foreign Language Building, room 102.

The Valley Star is accepting applications for Editor-in-Chief for the fall semester of 1997. Candidates should submit a letter of interest to Ed Bond, newspaper advisor, in the Business Journalism Building, room 114, by April 24 at 5 p.m. For more information, call (818) 778-0276.

The Imperial Court of San Fernando Valley, Inc. is pleased to announce the 1997 scholarship awards. For application, contact Student Services, Campus Center 100A or (818) 778-0243.

**POLICE WATCH**

A theft of a red mountain bike occurred outside the men's gym Monday. Value was approximately \$200.

An indecent exposure occurred by the job board at Bungalow 49 Wednesday at 4:15 p.m. when a Black man in his twenties exposed himself to a woman.

Information provided by Campus Police.

## New ASU President Elected

**■ Student Government:** Valley College students elect a new student president and officers to the ASU executive council for the 1997-1998 school year.

By LINDA E. THOMAS  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Valley College students elected a new Associate Student Union president and other officers in the campus-wide ASU elections last week. The new officers were elected to represent Valley's more than 16,000 students for the '97-'98 school year, beginning June 1.

Lorenzo Trujillo was elected president with 324 votes compared to the 255 votes received by fellow candidate Joel Feldman.

"As president, my main concern is to fight for the student's rights," Trujillo said. "I want to be involved with things that affect students, like meetings with the student trustee and other ASU presidents."

Trujillo said that he plans to focus on book grants for students with financial problems and fighting for more student worker money for departments with the greatest needs.

Leon Hardin was voted in as Vice President with 404 votes instead of Sevak Khatchadourian with 124 votes.

Less than four percent of the Valley College student population voted in the ASU elections, 591 ballots were cast, the office of Student Services reported.

"I think it was a good turnout,"

John Barnhart, ASU faculty advisor, said. "It's larger than last year."

Shelly Pasternak, ASU Commissioner of Political Affairs for this election, also ran for Commissioner of Athletics for the next school year.

Pasternak won as Commissioner of Athletics with 400 votes against Ellie Seckbach with 98 votes.

All other ASU officer candidates ran unopposed in their of-

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Lorenzo Trujillo  
ASU President Elect

## Speech Team Wins Big Again

By LINDA E. THOMAS  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Valley College Speech Team achieved big wins again, this time at the National Championships in St. Paul, Minnesota last week.

Over a hundred colleges from around the nation competed for top awards in the five-day championships. Competitors from the Valley team left with seven gold medals, two silver medals and five bronze medals. Valley ranked sixth in the nation in the individual events sweepstakes and eighth in the overall team sweepstakes.

Gold medals were captured by: Holly Prevost in Persuasive Speaking, Program Oral Interpretation and Reader's Theatre; Jason Baumwirt in Speech to Entertain; Johanna Denis in Reader's Theatre; Kristin Calabrese in Reader's Theatre and William Amaya in Dramatic Interpretation.

Silver medals were won by: Alexander Sack in Prose Interpretation and Dramatic Interpretation. Bronze medals were won by: Mercedes Cerrillos in Informative Speaking; Sara Katan in Prose Interpretation; and Lisa Foltz in Dramatic Interpretation.

"I am very proud of what they have accomplished," said Yancy Duncan, speech team coach and director of Valley College Forensics Department. "Eight of the 12 on the team this year will be back next year. We should do even better; this was pretty much a brand new team."

## Dean's Reception Honors Scholars

By ALLEN COCHRANE  
STAR REPORTER

The Dean's Reception honoring students who have met the criteria for the Fall 1996 Dean's Honor List was held Wednesday at 2 p.m.

More than 500 people attended, including Valley's most accomplished students, friends and family. Scholars received accolades for the effort they put forth last semester.

Both full-time and part-time honor students were honored and attendees were offered refreshments, listened to a variety of speakers and were entertained by pianist, Chin Kim.

Guest speaker, Dr. Kenneth Washington, said the duty of every student is to seek new challenges and use their knowledge to help those who do not have the gift of superior capability.

"You have a competing mechanism within you and you call upon it when you need it," Washington said. "You now have an obligation to yourself and others."

Valley President, Tyree Wieder, complimented students for their accomplishments.

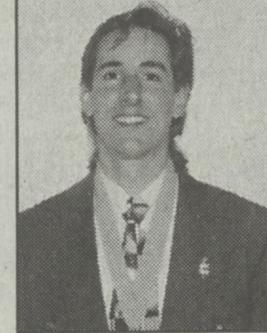
"It's an outstanding testimony to the work you have done," Wieder said.

Phi Theta Kappa President, Robert Lane, signs the charter membership book while honor inductees look on.

## Honor Society Chartered at LAVC

**■ Student Organizations:** Valley College students are inducted into Phi Theta Kappa, the highest international two-year college honor society, for the first time in LAVC history.

By LINDA E. THOMAS  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Robert Lane  
Phi Theta Kappa President

Phi Theta Kappa, the prestigious international honor society, was chartered Friday at Valley College in a formal candle lighting induction ceremony followed by a banquet held in Monarch Hall.

Eighty-three of Valley's top honor students were inducted as "charter members" during the ceremony.

"How wonderful it is that no one else in the history of this institution can call themselves a charter member. You set a standard for the future. Embrace the programs and participate," said Rod Risley, special guest speaker from the organization's national headquarters.

The new chapter, Beta Delta Sigma, is the very first chapter of Phi Theta Kappa ever in Valley's near 50-year history.

"It is the highest academic accolade that can be bestowed on a student in a two year college," Alfred Zucker, faculty

advisor and chairman of the English Department, said in his opening statement.

Zucker spoke of the sacrifices that many students make to maintain academic excellence.

"Many may have families to raise," Zucker said. "Despite all their handicaps, they maintained an 'A' average. Some have had little or no backing from families or friends. Some are the first to go to college in their family and provide an opportunity for their children."

The international organization was founded in 1918. It is the junior college equivalent and sister organization of Phi Beta Kappa which is the highest ranking honor society of four-year universities, Zucker said.

"Our hats go off to all of you," Zucker said. "Thank you for making this college what it is, but most of all for being who you are." He added that throughout history, people have battled persecutions and sought truth. He challenged the inductees to always pursue truth and to humble themselves in the service of others.

Dr. Susan Carleo, Vice President of Valley College, also spoke as acting president in President Tyree Wieder's absence.

"You are our honor," Carleo said. "We are very much privileged to honor you this evening, much success to

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## Student Trustee Election Repeats Today

By LINDA E. THOMAS  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The student trustee election for the L.A. Community College District will be re-held today from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. in Monarch Square, because of a "ballot error," according to information provided by the office of Student Services.

Students that voted last week in the student trustee election at Valley College must

recast their votes, Dean of Students Yasmin Delahoussaye said.

Newly elected Valley College ASU President Lorenzo Trujillo, who was also running for LACCD student trustee, withdrew from the trustee race immediately after accepting his presidency at approximately 1:30 p.m. Friday.

"It's problematic," Katherine McGowan of the Student Services office said. "He said that he could not accept

both, if he would win the trustee race, so he said he decided to withdraw."

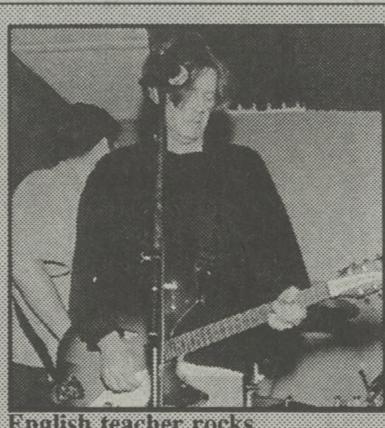
McGowan said she faxed Trujillo's withdrawal to the LACCD office Friday afternoon.

"The student trustee election at Valley College will basically be stopped and we'll have a new election," John Clerx, director of Student Services for the LACCD, said

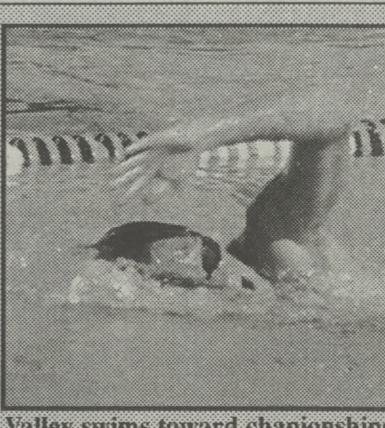
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**INSIDE**

Hired hit man sparks old flame.  
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English teacher rocks.  
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Valley swims toward championships.  
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Speech team captain captures world-wide gold.  
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# NEWS

Valley Star

## ASU Elections Held

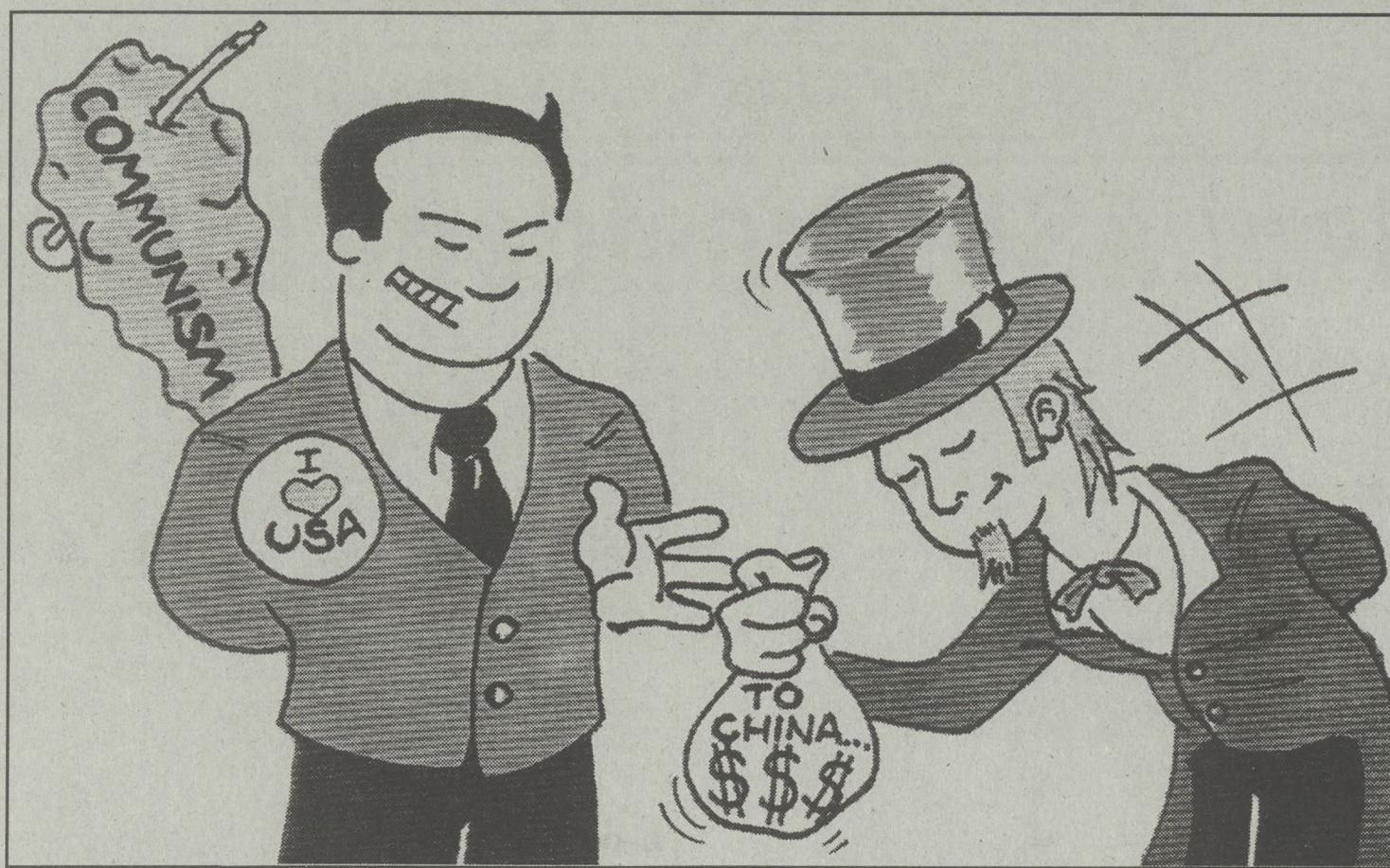
**Continued from Page 1**

fice sought. Students voted either "yes" or "no" for the candidates, and even if unopposed, the candidate could still lose, Pasternak said. The unopposed candidates were all elected, however, with a majority of "yes" votes.

The additional new ASU officers are: Craig Tokunaga, Commissioner of Campus and Environmental Affairs; Wilma Monroe, Commissioner of Cultural and Ethnic Affairs; Alison Scallions, Commissioner of Evening Division; Maureen Delaney, Commissioner of Fine Arts; Colleen Flynn, Commissioner of Political Affairs; Limor Isaaks, Commissioner of Public Relations; and Inetri Brazil, Commissioner of Student and Social Services.

Monroe is also running for the L.A. Community College District student trustee. The student trustee election, which was held concurrently with the ASU elections at Valley, will be repeated today because of a ballot error, Dean of Students Yasmin Delahoussaye said, and students must recast their ballots.

The other colleges in the district will also vote for the district student trustee during their respective student elections throughout the month of April, the district office reported.



Valley College journalism student Leo Smith won second place for his cartoon in the JACC conference competition Saturday.

## Journalism Students Win in Fresno Conference

By LIZ BARRETT  
STAR REPORTER

The annual Journalism Association of Community Colleges conference was held April 11-12 at Fresno State University.

Journalism students from California and Arizona community colleges competed for awards in both writing and photography and attended workshop sessions.

In the mail-in competitions, honorable mentions went to John

Tarr for critical review, Leo Smith for editorial cartoon and Rebecca Fowler for feature story. For bring-in and on-the-spot contests, Leo Smith won second place for his editorial cartoon. Maria Ivey won third place for feature photo and Leo Smith and Monica Lid received an honorable mention for team feature writing-photo.

Valley journalism students Ben Alter, Liz Barrett, Carola Danielsson, Alice Garabedian, Deeanne McClain and Liz Rodriguez also participated in the conference.



Plant Facilities worker Basilio Castro cuts branch away from car.

## Tree Branch Damages Cars

By DAVID BALDWIN  
STAR REPORTER

Once again, wind has caused damage on the Valley College campus. High winds caused a large branch to break off a tree and fall on two vehicles parked in parking lot A Thursday, causing damage to both vehicles.

Five plant facility workers responded immediately to remove the branch, estimated at 300-400 pounds, they said. It took workers one and a half hours to remove the branch from atop the vehicles, a Toyota and Ford, both owned by Valley College students.

"It sucks that this would happen. I still have to pay for this car," Claudia Montenegro, the owner of

the Toyota, said.

The L.A. Community College District insurance may ultimately pay for the damage, but the insurance companies of the owners of the vehicles must first submit claims for damage, a campus official said. Later, authorities of the district's insurance company will decide if they are liable for the damage caused by the branch, officials said.

Campus police officer Spencer Gosenon said several people had witnessed the incident, but only one person contacted the campus police and that person declined to give his/her name. Gosenon said he realizes people do not want to get involved, but their help would be greatly appreciated.

"Knowledge is power, but not for oneself, but for those whom one serves," Zucker said.

The inductees were individually honored with a certificate, signed the charter membership book and lit candles symbolizing the transference of the light of knowledge.

Robert Anthony Lane was officially pledged in as the first President of Valley's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. Michele Susan Williamson was also pledged in as secretary. Both were honored with gold medals.

"Robert Lane is an outstanding leader," Zucker said. "He is right there to help and does a fantastic job. He is one of the most humble human beings I've ever known and on top of that, he's a fabulous scholar."

M.E. Morikawa as Vice President and Cindy Elise Schwarzkopf as Treasurer could not attend the cer-

A dinner banquet followed the ceremony in Monarch Hall where Zucker additionally honored "the people behind the people," the parents, spouses, children, grandparents and friends of the new members.

"I feel honored and privileged," inductee Laurie Forrest said. Her son, Trevor, 13, attended the ceremony and said he is inspired to attend college right away and be an honor student.

"It's overwhelming," inductee Julie Ellen Lustig said. "I was never a particularly good student in high school, so it's a new leaf for me."

"The organization has already helped me receive scholarship money to go to a university," inductee Jackie Kaufman said. "I'm the first of five children to graduate from college." Kaufman works while she attends Valley and is also a single parent.

## Passover: The Exodus of the Jews

By BEN ALTER  
STAR REPORTER

Passover, the first holiday in the calendar of Jewish holidays is almost upon us.

Pesach, as it is more commonly known among the Jewish people, begins April 22 and will continue for eight nights.

Passover is known as the holiday that celebrates the deliverance of the Jews from the bondage of slavery. Thousands of years ago, the Egyptians enslaved the Jews and forced them to do that work which the Egyptians refused to do themselves.

The most well known of these chores was the building of the pyramid tombs that housed the mummified bodies of the past Pharaohs.

After hundreds of years of slavery, the Jews believe that God spoke to Moses by means of the burning bush and told Moses that he must go into Egypt and demand that the Pharaoh release the Jews or God would bring 13 plagues upon the Egyptians.

The most serious of these plagues was the slaying of the first born son of all Egyptians.

Some of the other plagues were locusts, frogs, blood, darkness and boils.

Following the plagues, the Jews hastily made their way out of Egypt.

Because of their hasty exit

## Student Trustee Elections Repeat

**Continued from Page 1**

Friday. "We have invalidated the election that has already transpired. I've sent a memo to President Wieder to that effect."

Trujillo was running against Wilma Monroe, also of Valley College, and several other students from the district. Monroe will continue to run for the trustee office.

"I think that's fine," Monroe said. "Those things happen. I'm not upset. I am glad, however, they are going to redo the election at Valley."

Clerx said that some other colleges in the district have already held the student trustee election with Trujillo on the ballot.

"Those elections and the elections coming up in the other colleges will continue as previously planned," Clerx said. "We will maintain those ballots the same. It is too late at this point in the election, we cannot change the ballots."

Trujillo's name will not be marked off the ballots for the other college elections that have not been held yet and there will be no indication on the ballot that Trujillo has withdrawn, Clerx said. The students will not be given a second opportunity to vote for someone else if they cast their ballot for Trujillo - it will simply be thrown out, Clerx said.

"Those votes just won't be counted," Clerx said. "It's the only way to provide a level playing field."

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# FEATURE

Thursday, April 17, 1997 3

Maria Ivey/Valley Star

## 'Golden Girl' Captures California and the World

By LINDA E. THOMAS  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Moments before the competition, the speech team captain swigs another cup of coffee to make her nervous on purpose while she goes over her speech one last time. She grabs her props and races to the judge's room where she stands outside alone while the others go in.

A special ring adorns her small hand that checks for the two necklaces she always wears, even if they don't match her outfit. She pinches herself, to keep her energy up, and tucks her precision-cut hair behind one ear. She waits until the very last second and confidently steps through the door. Her dimpled smile fools no one - they know she's serious, they know she's the best.

Not long ago, a small town college girl said good-bye to her folks in Burnt Hills, New York and landed in LAX with only suitcase in hand. Holly Prevost knew no one in the huge "City of Angels," but she did know one thing.

"I knew I wanted to get out of New York," she said. "I knew I wanted big change."

Today, not a fraction of her speech trophies would even fit in that same suitcase. Prevost is the "golden girl" of the Valley College speech team with more awards in the last year than she can even recall.

"It's probably too numerous to

count," she said.

Visitors to her apartment could wear sunglasses for the flash of silver and gold amidst the forest of trophies. The walls are plastered with plaques and shelves are heavy with awards. The silver platter she won last month at the California State Championships for "Best Speaker in the State" takes center stage.

Her smallest trophy is perhaps the most important. It represents one of her latest, and probably greatest wins - a first place award at the International Speech Tournament in London, England last month. As a prose speaker, Prevost is the best in the world.

"We were jumping up and down and screaming even before they announced Holly's name," teammate Ginger Takeshita said. "We knew in our hearts that she had won."

When Prevost made her way to her team in the audience, they smothered her with a giant group hug.

"What makes it all worth it is when you walk back to where your team is and see the look on your coach's face: 'You done good, kid,'" Prevost said.

Prevost had already won a second place international trophy just moments before.

"I was disappointed. I wanted first place," she said. "I'm not going to lie. It's really important for me that I win."

Second place, even in the

world, was not good enough. Prevost "picket-fenced" when she won first in the internationals, which means that all the final round judges gave her first place. No one else in the entire international tournament achieved that accomplishment.

"That was most exciting, because I felt like I did one step beyond," she said.

Stacks of certificates and other prize paraphernalia may fill her apartment, but these stellar performances do not come easily.

Every morning at 7 a.m. Prevost hits the ground running with research for her speeches. From 9 a.m. to noon every day, she attends classes at Valley, as a speech major, of course.

"My coach, Marty [Taras] says, 'You've got to do whatever it takes, kid,'" she said.

With cup of coffee in hand and sometimes a sandwich, she races over to the speech team bungalow and practices, practices, practices for four hours every week day and more on weekends.

"We don't have time to eat real meals, so you live on coffee, and that's not good for your voice," she said. "Then, I shoot over to my restaurant job."

Prevost "slings" spaghetti at a local Italian kitchen, waiting tables until about 10:30 p.m. But, her day still does not end, she goes home and starts her homework. She's an "A" student.

"It's funny, I used to hang-out with people I work with, but not I



Valley College Speech Team Captain Holly Prevost shows off her forest of trophies and golden awards.

don't have time," she said. "It's about priorities. My social life is the speech team. We all get along very well."

To make her day even longer, Prevost makes last minute revisions to her speeches before her head hits the pillow.

"You can rest when you're dead. That's the motto of our speech team," she said. "This is a point in

my life where it is crucial to work hard."

Such hard work and a hectic schedule does not hinder her speech performance - au contraire.

"In fact, it keeps me going," Prevost claims. "I have no time to worry and no time to second guess what I'm doing."

Could there possibly be time for a boyfriend for this 24-year-old dynamo with a sweetheart face?

"Yes, he's on the speech team," she confessed as her big brown eyes sparkled. "That's the only way you can do it. It's very hard to date out of the circuit, as we call it. You both understand the commitment it takes."

Before last spring, Prevost had no idea that the speech team even existed.

"I was working, partying, going out dancing, and I was not ready to go back to college and be a grown-up," she said. "At that time, I thought that I was a little interested in acting."

She did get a commercial agent, but going back to school was the last thing she wanted to do.

"I was praying, 'Please book an acting job, so I won't have to go back to school,'" she said.

Nothing happened, so two weeks later, she was sitting in Jim Marteney's speech class at Valley College when he took her by the hand across campus to meet her soon-to-be coach, Yancy Duncan.

Even though it was not exactly what she had planned, she was back in college and it was time to get serious, and serious she got.

One award after another followed. Then, she became captain of the team.

"Holly is a great speaker, but she's also a great captain. On days we are low on spirit, she comes and boosts us up: 'You can do it. Let's go. You're ready,' she says," Takeshita said.

Last month, Prevost led her team to London, England as the first team ever from Valley College to compete internationally. She explained how some of her teammates partied before the competitions, but not her. She dis-

ciplined herself to stay in the hotel and practice.

"I don't want to say that I don't like to have fun, because I do, but I don't like to have anything hinder my performance," she said. "There's always time after competition. It's much more rewarding to party after you've won."

Actually, the international wins were not her proudest moments.

"It may sound strange, but my proudest moment was when I was first starting out as a beginner on the speech team, when I was just in the novice category. [She is now in the senior category]," Prevost said.

"My proudest moment was the very first time that I won a first place. Second place was never good enough again. To go to the final round and take a second place, that's painful."

Last year, Prevost would not allow her father to attend her judged performance in the national tournament.

"I just couldn't let him do it," she said. "I had to draw that line. When I'm in there, I don't want to think about anything outside. I don't want anything to cloud my brain."

Prevost said she hoped that there would be some scholarship money available if she did well on the speech team.

"At this point in my life, I'm definitely thinking about the future," she said.

Several scholarship offers have made the way to Prevost's door, including a full-paid scholarship to a major university.

"I would like to get a law degree," she said. "I am interested in law to improve society in some way. I would like to represent people who may not have a voice or chance to speak about troubles they are enduring."

Prevost said she is sure she will end up teaching some day.

"I've seen the impact that teachers have had and I'd like to give that back."

Prevost will pass the captain's baton to a fellow teammate as she steps into the future for another big change in her life at a major university this fall.

"With a trained voice, you can do so much and impact so many people," she said.

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# OPINION

Valley Star

## Editorial: The Cults of Personality

With recent events bringing to light the existence of apocalyptic cults, it is relevant to address the issue of cults and their role on the college campus.

College students are invariably the target of these fringe sects due to a multitude of reasons. College students are, presumably, faced with new found freedoms that allow them the opportunity to make bad decisions. In most cases, students are alienated from family and friends by relocation and lose their support groups.

Because of separation and a sense of insecurity, some people become susceptible to suggestion because of that insuppressible need to belong. Also, students love to experiment and do exactly the opposite of how they were raised. It is exactly this kind of personality that cults prey upon.

Cults lavish unsolicited and excessive attention upon prospective members that inundates the receiver with feelings of acceptance.

Though methods vary, the inevi-

table goal of all cults is in the destruction of a person's individuality.

To this end, cults employ family bashing, monopolizing time, and even sex, or lack thereof, to convince initiates that it is their way or the highway. Once the concept of self is lost, initiates have to rely on others.

To add to the disparity, new members are usually asked to give up all their materialistic ties, including money and property, to the cults.

This property often becomes communal property that is non-refundable should a member ever wish to check out. Members are only accepted as long as they stay active and obedient.

To further enhance the cult experience, initiates are often confronted with charismatic megalomaniacs with well-developed Messiah complexes.

These nut jobs are so endearing that they are able to further pull the naive into their fold. If these people are gullible enough

to place their faith in a self aggrandizing god-head, then they are likely to follow him to Heaven's Gate. It is very important to realize that even the most vicious of monsters, a la Charles Manson, seemed charming and inspired intense loyalty.

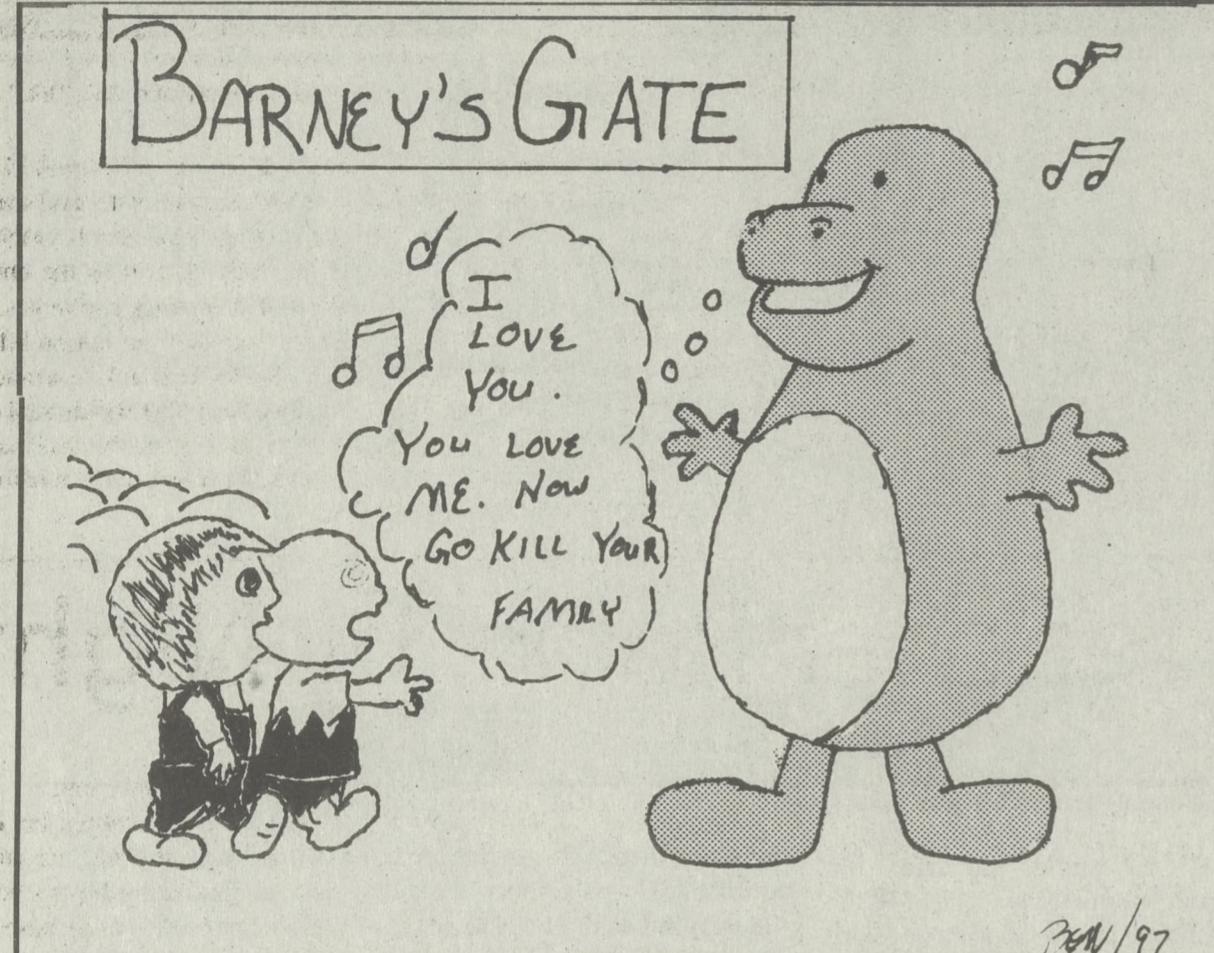
So, a loving, oppressive environment coupled with a self-appointed deity is a good generalization of a typical cult.

Should one need further examples, look no farther than the apocalyptic stylings of Jim Jones

and David Koresh or sci-freaks like Marshall Appelwhite.

Above all, it is important to remember that whenever confronted with individuals whom espouse views that seem ludicrous, they probably are ludicrous. Critical thinking skills are crucial when dealing with unusual concepts and ideas.

However, apocalyptic cults have and will continue to exist and undoubtedly multiply with the impending arrival of the millen-



## Liz Strikes Back The Rudeness of Strangers!

By LIZ RODRIGUEZ  
OPINION EDITOR

What ever happened to good manners? It seems that Americans are becoming more and more self-centered and are forgetting about being a kindly person.

Here's an example: While I was looking for a parking space in the campus parking lot, some man crossed the road. Well, one may never what is so rude about that. Here's the rude part. He crossed the road incredibly slowly. He was a young man in good shape and he was not even limping. To top it off, this Neanderthal gave me a dirty look!

I wonder how we as people have stooped so low as to not be concerned about the well-being of others. I admit it, I have been guilty of rudeness before, but I have resolved to myself to try my best at being polite.

People, how hard is it to say "excuse me" when bumping into someone? It takes absolutely no effort whatsoever to utter two words. We're in a constant hurry to get from one place to another. I have been pushed aside by people who want to get somewhere and not even apologize for their rudeness. What really annoys me is when I say "excuse me" to someone, and they don't even move, or if they do, they act like I had no right wanting to pass through an area which they were blocking.

We have become enraptured in our own jobs and problems. It seems like our advanced technology has made us have less human contact. We don't contact bankers, or brokers, department of motor vehicles attendants (who'd really want to?), or even librarians. We can easily access information from the Internet nowadays. Even doing something as simple as buying gas, I miss the cashier at a gas station. How often do you see the cashier at a gas station? I never do, because I always pay at the pump.

**We are stressed out, that's a given. But if we smiled at each other instead of cursing at each other, our days would be brighter, less stressful.**

Now, I am not sure, but wasn't there something called the golden rule? I believe it went "treat others how you would like to be treated." Shouldn't this rule be taught at school or something? I have seen such rudeness in children, I often get disgusted. How

often does a child talk back to their parents or disrespect others? I see it every day. Here's what happens: rude children make rude grownups.

We always bump into each other and we get angry at each other for doing so. It is so sad that I have become surprised whenever someone holds a door open for someone. I am not that old, but I remember a time when young people used to give up their seats to an elderly person. I also recall a time when people would say, "After you."

I have to bring up another word that seems to have become obsolete, respect. We live in a world where one is called a "bitch" for taking the last parking space or for driving at the speed limit. If everyone respected each other, I believe that there would be less violence.

We are stressed out, that's a given. But if we smiled at each other instead of cursing at each other, our days would be brighter, less stressful. Let me ask you something, isn't it better when people pass by and say "good day" than when they pass by and purposely try their hardest not to make eye contact. People, a friendly gesture does not give one the cooties.

## If I Wanted Your Opinion . . .

### This Week's Topic: Space

By LEO SMITH  
STAR REPORTER

I hope this doesn't come as a shock to anyone, but comets aren't limos to heaven. Some people seem to have been confused.

I know it sounds like it, but this isn't an opinion about cults. Rather, I want to talk about something that is far more important than the lives of those 39 insignificant fools. I'm talking about space, specifically exploration, and recent revelations have made me giddy like a school girl.

Hopefully, the once in millennia

spectacle of Hale-Bopp has forced folks into taking a long,

hard look at that ebony quilt above us.

Perhaps some people were excited and their appetites have been whetted for more. Maybe it has even galvanized the imaginations of children into once again wanting to be astronauts and walk on the moon. I hope that is the case.

These past few months have

been astronomically exciting in a celestial kind of way. To recap: extinct micro-life on mars, ice on the moon, water on Europa and, of course, Heaven's taxi service. How much more incentive do we as a nation need to start building a solar system superhighway?

With all this new information about our planetary cul-de-sac, it is no longer so easy to dismiss sinking trillions into the space program. Of course, there are those bleeding hearts that demand the social problems of the world, such as homelessness and poverty, be dealt with before the Million Mile High Club welcomes any members.

For those who feel slighted by that comment, this is for you: If you want social services, move to Norway. If you want your country responsible for opening a Taco Bell on the moon, write your congress person.

Like it or not, our future lies beyond this planet, and we need to make reservations, now. If we don't get our rear in gear, an opportunity for walking on the moon

within our lifetimes will slip away. People need to dream, and welfare is just a recurring nightmare.

The technology already exists that would allow us to build a condo on the moon, but why should we stop there. Inside a century, we could be scuba diving beneath Europa's icy crust doing archaeological surveys on Mars. Hell, I would be perfectly content with a simple rocket sent to Venus to seed its carbon dioxide rich atmosphere with micro-plant life. All that has to happen is for a little money to loosen up and head NASA's way. Forget cutting the military budget for social services, hand it over to Major Tom.

The year 2001 is right around the corner and we as a species are still mired on this bog known as Earth.

Come on people, think back to what you wanted to be when you were growing up... before the Challenger explosion. Let's be all we can be, damn it.

Next Week: Pacifists

## Letter to the Editor

Regarding the "If I Wanted Your Opinion" column, topic: Militant Non-Smokers:

I am a non-smoker. I am not "belligerent" or "selfish." I simply have the right, from being born on a planet with clean air, to breathe what my body is composed to accept in a healthy manner. Many have made the decision to smoke, not me. Understandably, they must bend to some regulations. I represent the majority, and do not have to suf-

fer smokers' self-destructive habit, even if, as Leo Smith sadly says, he can't figure out anything better to do after sex. Charming.

Atmospheric pollution such as smog is a problem that is not easily remedied, for both smokers and non-smokers.

However, asking a person to refrain from blowing smoke that they are personally creating in my direction (by creating non-smoking areas, not by confrontation) seems to be a logical way to respect the

rights of both parties.

In short, making non-smokers appear to be whiny, self-centered babies is just another way for smokers like Leo Smith to justify a sad dependency to a product marketed to hook those who will defend their "right to smoke" to the death, literally.

Well, you've got what you wanted, tiger, how does it taste?

Jennifer Smith  
Valley College Student

## The Ignorance of Racism Continues

By BEN ALTER  
STAR REPORTER

"You dirty Jew, you dumb spic."

Have you ever heard these before, along with a lot of other derogatory, racist statements? Being a Jew, I hear comments about the greed of Jews all the time.

Other than what I hear about myself and my people, I hear racist remarks about all groups.

A lot of people don't like the Jews, whether it's because of pure hatred or just because they are jealous. I don't know, but I do know that it's ridiculous.

Just today I was walking down the hall and heard three students discussing something and one of

them said, "That damn Jew boy." So, of course, I had to retort and almost got into a physical confrontation. All because of three ignorant people.

Hated on basis of differences of color, religion and sex is ignorant. If you don't like a person, it should be on the basis of personal knowledge of that individual and not because he/she appears to be different from you.

If anything, people should learn from the Jews. We are a people who have been persecuted and oppressed since the beginning of time. We were slaves for hundreds of years and have been thrown out of almost every country that we have lived in.

Don't forget about the Holocaust, even though some people refuse to acknowledge that it ever happened.

Can you believe that of 11,000,000 people killed in 12 years, six million were Jews.

What have the Jews done about it?

They haven't complained and cried. No, they figured out what they had to do to bring themselves out of that oppression and improve their lives, and then did it.

Next time you see someone that's a little different from you, don't call them names, get to know them. I bet you find out that they are not that different from you.

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### LETTERS \* LETTERS \* LETTERS \* LETTERS \* LETTERS \* LETTERS

The Valley Star will receive and, if possible, publish letters from its readers. The Star reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Submitted letters should be limited to 250 words. Letters are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, ethnic, religious, sexist or sexually oriented denigrations. Letters must be signed and include student's ID number. Letters may be left with the Valley Star at BJ 114 by Monday morning for the following Thursday.

# ENTERTAINMENT

Valley Star

Thursday, April 17, 1997 5

## 'Grosse Pointe' Hits Bull's Eye

By LEO SMITH  
STAR REPORTER

This movie's catch phrase will do to reunions what Jerry Maguire's "Show me the money," did to, well, everything.

"Grosse Pointe Blank" is the story of a professional hit man and his spiritual malaise brought by an invitation to his high school's ten-year class reunion. Martin is at a crossroads in his life where his love for the job has evaporated like a person's head nailed with a hollow-point bullet.

When asked what he does for a living, John Cusack's character, Martin Blank, decides the truth is the best option. "Professional killer," he replies, to which all his old chums laugh. The laughing stops, however, when the shooting starts.

To top off his spiritual doldrums, he is having recurring dreams about the girl he stood up at the senior prom. That was no ordinary girl though, it was Martin's first love, his high school sweetie, his

nightly lay. Her name is Debi, and her image haunts him. The problem is, that Freudian guilt is hurting his performance on the job.

So when an offer comes in to do a job in his home town the weekend of the reunion, his secretary Marcella, wonderfully portrayed by Cusack's sister Joan, convinces him to go. Martin also takes the advice of his anxious shrink, Doctor Oatman, the hilarious Alan Arkin. Since he found out what his patient does for a living, he recommends that Blank go and "...not kill anyone," on the trip. With professional advice under his belt, Martin takes the job and heads to Michigan.

Now, you have to appreciate the Martin Blank situation. Before his present slip in abilities, he was a contender, a regular one man army, a competitive threat to fellow businessmen, like Grocer.

Grocer is also an assassin, a Prozac-popping sociopath frighteningly portrayed by the amiable Dan Aykroyd. Grocer is trying to



Photo Courtesy of Hollywood Pictures Company

John Cusack stars as Martin Blank, a hit man who attends his high school reunion in Grosse Pointe, Michigan, while on an assignment to do a "hit."

recruit Blank for his killer's union, but Martin wants to remain a lone gun. Grocer decides that isn't the answer he wanted and sets out to make Blank's return home painful, physically.

Racked with guilt, Martin searches out Debi Newberry, played by the wonderful Minnie Driver, to explain why he walked out on her ten years ago. For a

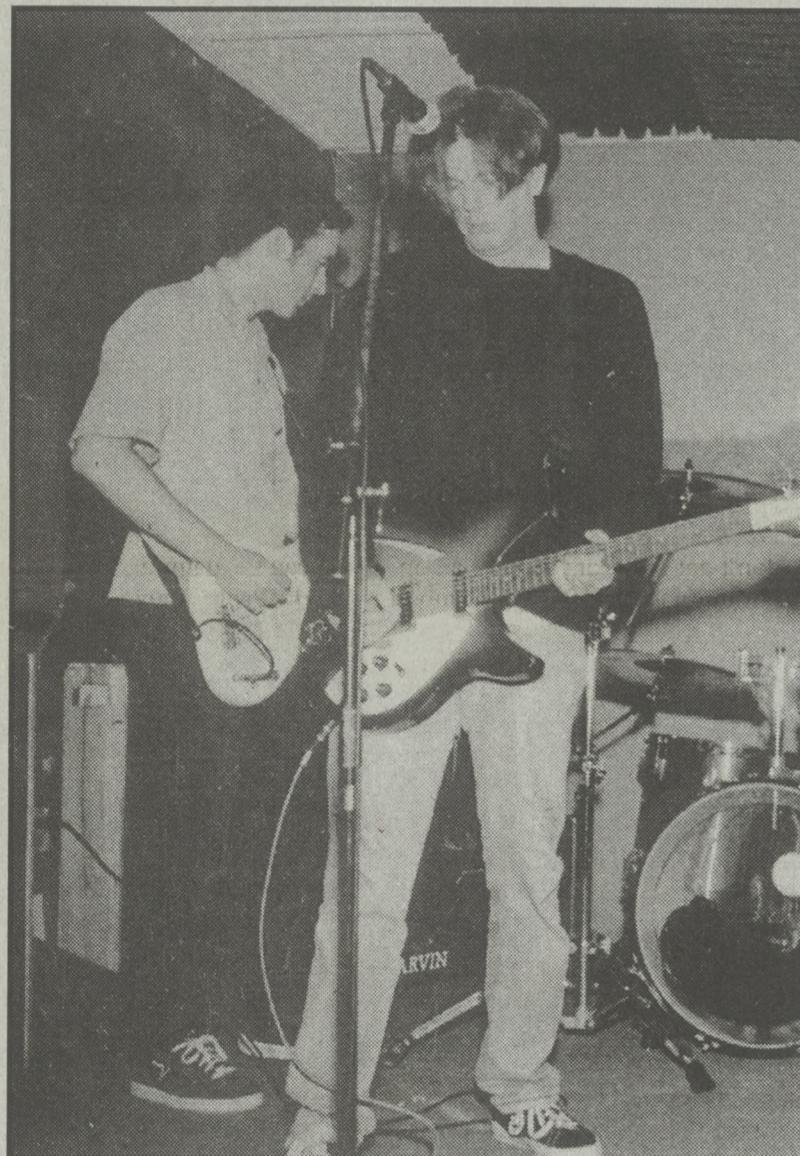
man who needs nerves of steel to kill for money, he is visibly shaken as he goes to confront his lost love.

That is the heart of this film, Martin's conflict between professionalism and a burgeoning sense of a life wasted. Killing is all he does but lately, he is more concerned with patching up a ten-year-old mistake. On the one hand, we see the side of Martin that is a

cold-blooded gun for hire, a man with no conscience that rationalizes to himself that all the people he is killing did something to deserve it. On the other, we have a man who is obviously obsessing to the point of remorse about the way he treated a girl a decade ago. Now that's depth.

The film is outstanding with well-developed characters and

well-defined personalities. Cusack's script is witty and scary, chronicling the paranoid existence of hit men as well as the emotions of star-struck soulmates. More than just an action film, "Grosse Pointe Blank" is a touching love story that should strike a chord with anyone that has made a regrettable mistake in a relationship.



Valley Star/Maria Ivey

Valley College English teacher John Fredrick rocks out on his rhythm guitar with his band "The Black Watch."

## English Teacher Rocks by Night

By LIZ RODRIGUEZ  
STAR REPORTER

He leads a double life. During the day, he teaches English 101 at Los Angeles Valley College and at night, he is a vocalist/guitarist for the record group "The Black Watch."

Dr. John Fredrick walked into a coffee shop dressed in blue jeans, a white T-shirt, an oversized brown grandpa sweater and black converse all-star shoes. He had shaggy hair, which he kept brushing back with his hand. Fredrick said he is not really sure what he prefers to do.

"They have to weigh in equally," he said. "I don't do either one for the money. Anyone who does this job really has to love it."

Fredrick formed "The Black Watch" in 1988 while teaching at the University of California Santa Barbara where he landed a record deal. Later, the group in Santa Barbara broke up.

A few years later, Fredrick

moved to Los Angeles and formed the current "The Black Watch." His band has released three full-length albums, some LP's and singles.

Fredrick passionately described his music as "beautiful, dissident, pop." He said that he wants to make the music as catchy as possible. As he looked off to the distance, he said bands such as "The Beatles" and "My Bloody Valentine" influence him when he writes music.

"I wouldn't call myself a very good musician, but I try," he said.

In the past, Fredrick did the singing, but he preferred to have a mixture of male and female voices. In the new album "Seven Rollercoasters," he had the other guitarist, J'Anna Jacoby, sing some songs.

"It's nice to have that sort of dialectic between two male and female singers," he said with a smile.

He said the reason he is in a band is for the love of doing it. Fredrick said he loves playing

music.

"I'd go crazy if I didn't have a band," he said laughing. "The spirit behind it is, you do something because you can do it and because you love doing it."

Fredrick came up with the name "The Black Watch." He named it after the Scottish regiment of bag pipe players who fought during battle. He said he wanted the band to have an aggressive sounding name.

"The Black Watch" has performed in two national tours. Locally, Fredrick has played at places like the Roxy and the Alligator Lounge.

The band, which is under a small label in Boston, usually sells 7,000 to 8,000 albums. Their latest album was released March 4. The next album will be released in the fall.

Other than music, he also loves teaching. Fredrick has been teaching for nine years. Last year, he came to work at Valley College part-time. He said he admires his students and looks forward to going back.

"I was very discouraged for a while," Fredrick said.

Then he went to a university and earned a Ph.D. in English.

He is currently single and has a 10-year-old son. Fredrick juggles the tasks of teacher, writer, singer, guitar player and is still a friendly person.

"I seem to have a lot of inherent energy," he said.

By ALICE GARABEDIAN  
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Dear Ali,

Last semester, I dated a guy a couple of times I met here at Valley. We were just better being friends, or so I thought. I guess he didn't see it that way. We are friends now, but he still asks me out all the time. He also started dating someone else who I knew from high school, but we were

never friends. She likes him a lot, but he doesn't like her as much. I would want to go out with him again but I don't know if I like him enough to cause all the problems that would come about if we dated. What should I do?

Signed,

To Date or Not To Date

Dear To Date or Not To Date,  
You just answered your own question. "We were just better

# DEAR ALI:

being friends." There was a reason you two went out but after that, you realized it wasn't working out for you, so you two stopped dating. Just because he is asking you out continuously doesn't mean you should reconsider the relationship. Something

obviously happened to end the relationship and would probably re-occur if you two start up again. As for this acquaintance of yours, her relationship with him is not your problem. If he likes you more then he should deal with that and decide if he wants to con-

tinue a relationship with someone he doesn't like. If you do decide to go out with him again, I don't feel you should consider her at all. What if he was going out with someone else you did not know and did not go to school with, would you have even known about his new relationship? He would probably not have told you and that wouldn't be a consideration.

I just hope you do what is best

for you and not go out with him for the wrong reasons.

I hope I helped and if you need more advice please drop me a letter in the Journalism Building room 114, marked Valley Star.

Signed,  
Dear Ali

If you have a problem, write to Dear Ali. Do not sign your real name. This is purely for entertainment purposes only.

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# SPORTS

6 Thursday, April 17, 1997

Valley Star

## Monarch Swimmers Dominate Their Rivals

By ALLEN COCHRANE  
STAR REPORTER

The valley swim team found an early sprinkle of success which quickly turned into a torrent as they easily defeated cross-town rival Pierce College in a meet at home Friday.

With each win, swim coach William Krauss praised his swimmers success.

"The gods are with us," Krauss said. "We're winning every close race today."

The competition results were overwhelmingly in Valley's favor, but Krauss said the meet had not been forecast to happen that way.

"On paper it was very close, especially for the women," Krauss said. "The first relays were real critical. We got off to a great start and got the seven points on each of them. I'm really pleased."

In a virtual sea of good fortune, there were many standout efforts that normally would be considered the individual highlights of the meet.

Aaron Robinson came away with dominant wins in the 100m free style, 200m butterfly and 500m free style.

Jenifer Kaufmann also showed superior effort with wins in the 50m free style, 100m free style, 50m backstroke and shared in the 200m medley relay win.

Nathan Burris had an excellent meet, winning the 200m backstroke, 200m individual medley and winning with the 400m med-

ley relay team.

Cynthia Macinnes had a stellar performance taking first in the 100m backstroke and 100m individual medley. Macinnes took second in the 50m butterfly and shared the win in the 200m medley relay.

Kari Rittmiller shined with wins in the 50m breaststroke and 100m breaststroke, took a third in the 50m butterfly and helped the 200m medley relay team to a win.

Towner Douglas showed his versatility with a win in the 50m butterfly and shared the wins for the 400m medley relay and 400m free style teams.

Chris Wilson was a free style phenom for the men with wins in the 100m and 200m free style and was apart of the winning 400m free style relay team.

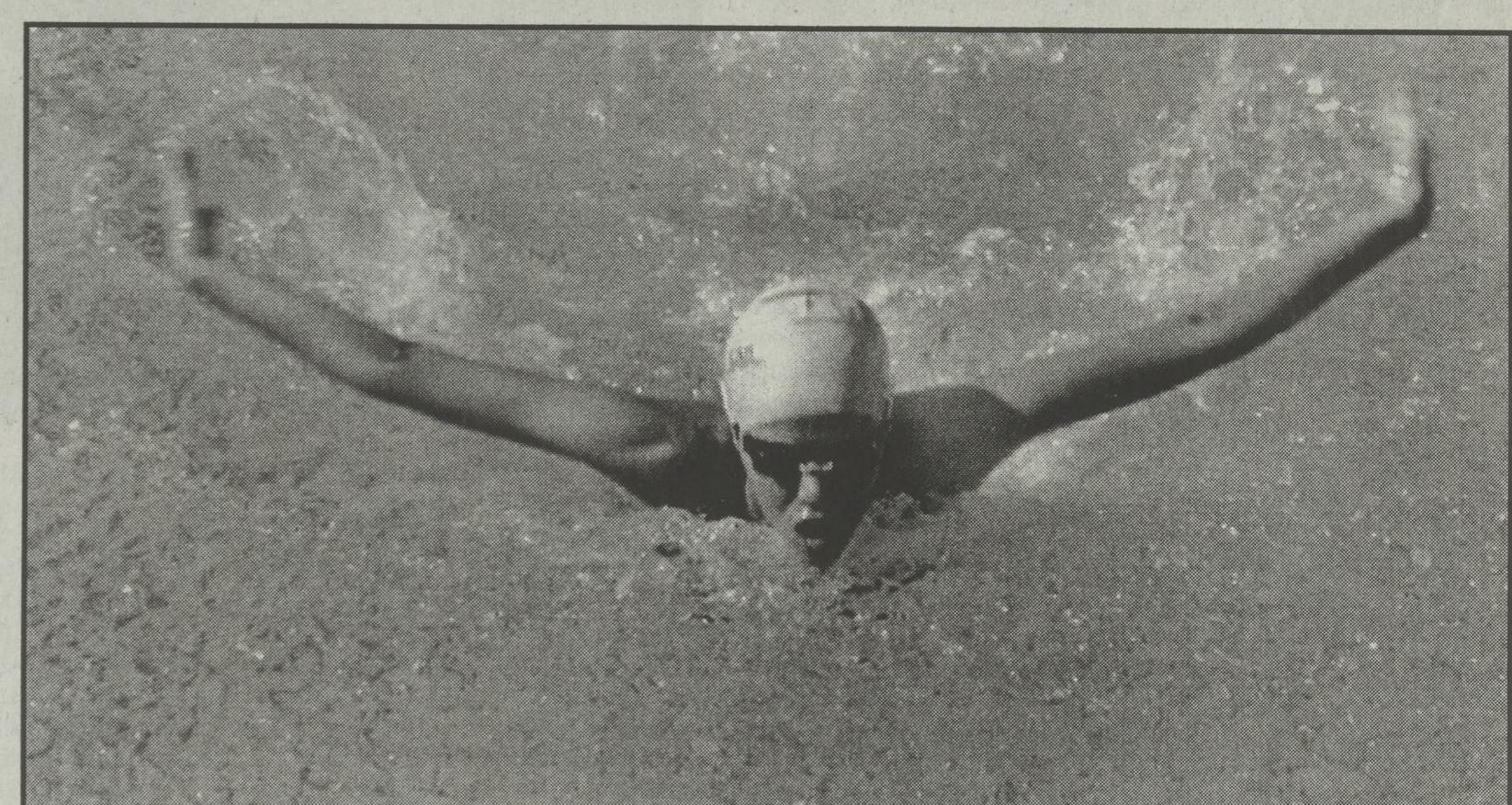
Anna Hartsfield sparkled with a win in the 100m butterfly, a second in the 500m free style and as a part of winning relay teams in the 200m medley and 200m free style.

The rousing cheer given by the Valley swimmers before the meet was amazingly accurate as a prediction for the meet.

"Girl's team of iron, men's team of steel," the Monarchs called out to Pierce. "If one don't getcha the other one will."

The team came through almost always winning the very close races, sometimes by only a few hundredths of a second.

Rittmiller's attitude before her 50m breaststroke was indicative of the team in general as the meet



Cynthia Macinnes swims her way to a close second place finish in the 50m butterfly against L.A. Pierce College.

Luis Vasquez/Valley Star

progressed.

"I'm looking for first. I'm pretty confident with that," Rittmiller said. "This whole meet, I felt good. I felt really confident and real prepared."

Robinson said he had held back a little in reserve in his early race to let it all out on his final 500m.

"I pushed it hard in that race," Robinson said. "I wanted to go under five minutes, but my energy was sapped. It was a pretty good day."

Kaufmann, who said she felt prepared and strong throughout the meet, said the team had been very focused because they knew Pierce had beaten

Citrus and Valley had already lost to Citrus.

"I was nervous last night, and we all were aware," Kaufmann said. "Bill gave us a good motivational talk. It was our last dual meet for the year and we wanted to do well."

Kaufmann said her wins in the 50m free style and 50m backstroke were comparatively easy, but the 100m free style was more of a challenge.

"It was hard. I was burning the whole time," Kaufmann said. "I knew it was going to be close, but I beat her by a body length. It felt good."

Coach Krauss said the team put a lot of effort into prepara-

tion for the meet, with the final results being an 81-32 win for the men and an 89-48 win for the women.

"We worked out all during spring break for this meet," Krauss said. "This was a big one for us, so many good times today. We recruit against these guys, so it's kind of a cross-town rivalry."

Towner Douglas, normally a 200m free style swimmer who swam the 50m free style, explained that some swimmers were entered in events they might not normally swim for the benefit of the team.

"Coach put some people in places he thinks we could get the

most points," Douglas said. "We did real well, came together with good team unity and beat the cross-town rival."

Krauss said scouting determines his lineup for the meet.

"I had info on them, so I knew what they had," Krauss said. "You scout and try to put together your best meet. Today, it paid off."

Krauss said he hopes to have his team finish in the top three in the nine team conference. He says a number one placing would be difficult.

"For today, we had a lot of depth," Krauss said. "I got them fired up and I'm real proud of them."

## Congratulations

The Men's and Women's swim teams for their dominant win over Los Angeles Pierce College in the matchup between the two teams on March 11. The Men's and Women's teams combined to take a first place in 24 out of the 29 events in the meet. The first place finishes were:

Jenifer Kaufman in the 200m medley relay, 50m free style, 100m free style and 50m backstroke

Aaron Robinson in the 1000m free style, 200m butterfly and 500m free style

Cynthia Macinnes in the 200m medley relay, 100m backstroke, 100 individual medley

Chris Wilson in the 200m free style, 100m free style and 400m free style relay

Kari Rittmiller in the 200m medley relay, 100m breast stroke, 50m breaststroke

Towner Douglas in the 400m medley relay, 50m free style and 400m free style relay

Anna Hartsfield in the 200m medley relay, 100m butterfly and 200m free style relay

Nathan Burris in the 400m medley relay, 200m individual medley and 200m backstroke

Shayna Douglas in the one meter and three meter diving

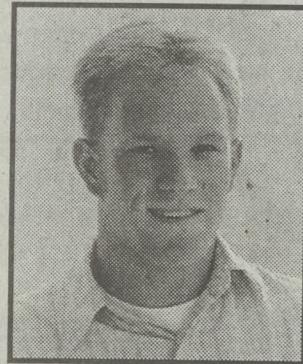
Tom Fernley in the 400m medley relay and 200m breaststroke

Paul Lovejoy in the 400m medley relay and 200m free style relay

Christian Guzman in the 400m free style

With this victory and the other victories this season, the team has earned a spot in the Western States Conference Championship meet. In addition to that, both Jenifer Kaufman and Aaron Robinson have qualified to compete in the State Championship meet.

## Athlete's of the Month



NAME:

Aaron Robinson

SPORT:

Swimming

GRADE LEVEL:

Sophomore

HIGH SCHOOL:

Glenelde

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Robinson went undefeated in the 200m butterfly this month and qualified for the State Championship meet.

NAME:

Jenifer Kaufmann

SPORT:

Swimming

GRADE LEVEL:

Sophomore

HIGH SCHOOL:

El Camino

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Kaufman went undefeated in the backstroke last month and qualified for the State Championship meet.

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